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Jan 11

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Dear Mom, Dad, Gail, etc.

Jan. night

We finally got to Houston about 10 P.M. The side trip to the Grand Canyon kept us from making it to New Orleans tonight. The Grand Canyon is a spectacular sight - much more impressive than pictures indicate.

Wednesday morning we visited the Petrified Forest Nat'l. Park and although it was only 8 A.M. there were already many tourists. Actually we have been lucky since nearly all of the interstate traffic consists of tourists headed toward California.

Yesterday we drove all across New Mexico and stayed in Childress, Texas. The climate in Texas was



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quite a change from the previous states. Arizona and New Mexico are dry, and, as we were in the mountains, cool as well. Today, in Texas, the temperature was in the high 80's and the humidity was also very high. The wind blows constantly about 20 mph. All morning we were driving through an area in which there was a tornado watch in effect.

Driving south from Dallas we passed through small towns occasionally. It was interesting to see the white and black parts of town and the miserable shacks many people live in. I doubt



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that things have changed much since you were in the South. Of course, there is a lot more to see since after New Orleans we drive across Alabama to Atlanta and get to Virginia on Sunday.

Well I guess Saturday is the big day for Hail. I'm sorry we can't be there, but I suppose she will do all right without my help. We will certainly be anxious to hear all the news after we get to Frederickburg.

Jim



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